

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for ~~In~~ a radio communication system having a mobile node operable at least to communicate packet data pursuant to a packet communication session by way of a selected network portion of a network part of the radio communication system, the network part having a plurality of network portions, ~~an improvement said of~~ apparatus for facilitating selection of which of the plurality of network portions forms the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated pursuant to the communication session, said apparatus comprising:

a storage element embodied at the mobile node, said storage element selectively containing a listing of a preferred set of network portions associated with the mobile node together with network-portion capabilities of individual ones of the network portions, if any, forming the preferred set, ~~the network-portion capabilities contained in the listing updateable responsive to access attempts made by the mobile node to access the network portions; and~~

a selector coupled to said storage element, said selector for selecting the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated, selection made by said selector of one of the network portions, if any, identified in the listing contained at said storage element that exhibits network-portion capabilities of packet data connectivity, and if none of the network portions, if any, identified in the listing exhibit packet data ~~connectivity~~, selection made by said selector selectively is made of ~~another~~ ~~an other~~ network portion ~~not~~ identified in the listing to exhibit packet data connectivity, to form the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of network portions comprises a home network associated with the mobile node, the home network maintaining a preferred roaming list identifying preferred network portions by way of which the mobile node is to communicate when roaming beyond the home network, and wherein the listing of the preferred set contained at said storage element comprises the preferred roaming list.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each network portion of the plurality of network portions is identified by a network identifier and wherein the listing contained at said storage element identifies each network portion of the preferred set by the network identifier associated therewith.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network identifier identifying each of the network portions of the preferred set stored at said storage element comprises a country code and a network code, the country code identifying a country in which the network portion identified therefrom is located and the network code uniquely associated with the network portion identified therefrom.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network part of the radio communication system is coupled to the mobile node by way of a radio ~~are interfaced air interface~~ and wherein the listing contained at said storage element is formed of information downloaded thereto by way of the radio air interface.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the listing contained at said storage element is ~~dynamically maintained~~ updateable.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the network-portion capabilities of the individual ones of the network portions comprise identification of whether the individual ones of the network portions are within communication range of the mobile node to be available thereto by way of which to communicate, availability of the network portions dynamically maintained is updateable.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network-portion capabilities of the individual ones of the network portions comprise identification of whether the individual ones of the network portions provide voice data connectivity and of whether the individual ones of the network portions provide the packet data connectivity.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network portions of the plurality of network portions each broadcast signals containing identification information and wherein said apparatus further comprises a detector for detecting the signals containing the identification information.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein selection made by said selector selectively of another network portion is of a network portion of which the signals containing the identification information is detected by said detector.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said detector detects signals containing the identification information broadcast by a first of the network portions and signals containing the identification information by at least a second of the network portions and wherein selection made by said selector selectively of the another network portion is one of the first and at least second network portions, respectively.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a packet-connection attemptor adapted to receive indications of selection made by said selector, said packet-connection attemptor for attempting to form a packet-connection with the selected network portion.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the packet data communicated pursuant to the packet communication session is communicated to effectuate a packet data communication service with an entity identified by an access point name, and wherein said packet-connection attemptor attempts to form the packet connection with the entity identified by the access point name.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the listing contained at said storage element further indexes the access point name together with the network portion ~~through which the packet data is communicated of said packet connection attemptor successfully forms the packet connection with the entity with which the access point name is associated.~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~In a method A method~~ of communicating in a radio communication system having a mobile node operable at least to communicate packet data pursuant to a packet communication session by way of a selected network portion of a network part of the radio communication system, the network part having a plurality of network portions, ~~an improvement of a said~~ method for facilitating selection of which of the plurality of network portions forms the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated pursuant to the communication session, said method comprising:

forming a listing at the mobile node of a preferred set of network portions associated with the mobile node together with network-portion capabilities of individual ones of the network portions, if any, forming the preferred set;~~and~~

selecting the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated, selection of one of the network portions, if any, identified in the listing, formed during said operation of ~~forming the listing, formed during said operation of listing,~~ that exhibits

network-portion capabilities of packet data connectivity; and, if none of the network portions, if any, identified in the listing exhibit packet data connectivity, then selectively selecting ~~another an other network portion, not identified in the listing, to exhibit packet data connectivity,~~ to form the selected network portion by way of which the packet data is communicated; and

~~updating the network-portion capabilities contained in the listing responsive to access attempts made by the mobile node to access the network-portions.~~

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of network portions comprises a home network associated with the mobile node, the home network maintaining a roaming list identifying preferred network portions by way of which the mobile node is to communicate when roaming beyond the home network, and wherein the listing formed during said operation of forming, of the preferred set comprises the preferred roaming list.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the operation of dynamically maintaining the listing formed during said operation of forming.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the operations of broadcasting signals from at least selected ones of the network portions and detecting, at the mobile node, the signals broadcast during said operation of broadcasting.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein selection made during said operation of selectively selecting of the another network portion is of a network portion of which the signals broadcast during said operation of broadcasting and detected during said operation of detecting.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the operation of attempting to form a packet connection with the selected network portion.

21. (New) A method in a storage element for assisting a mobile node in selecting a network capable of data communication, the method comprising:

storing a preferred roaming list in the storage element, the preferred roaming list listing a plurality of preferred networks together with associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the plurality of preferred networks;

making the preferred roaming list available for comparison against currently available networks and associate packet data communication capabilities of each of the currently available networks; and

updating the preferred roaming list based upon the comparison.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the storage element is an internal component of the mobile node.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the storage element is a removable module capable of connecting to the mobile node through an interface.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the storage element is a Subscriber Identity Module.

25. (New) A storage element configured to assist a mobile node in selecting a network capable of data communication, the storage element comprising:
a preferred roaming list listing a plurality of preferred networks together with associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the plurality of preferred networks, the preferred roaming list configured to be available for comparison against currently available networks and associate packet data communication capabilities of each of the currently available networks, the preferred roaming list further configured to be updated based upon the comparison.

26. (New) The storage element of claim 25, wherein the storage element is an internal component of the mobile node.

27. (New) The storage element of claim 25, wherein the storage element is a removable module capable of connecting to the mobile node through an interface.

28. (New) The storage element of claim 27, wherein the storage element is a Subscriber Identity Module.

29. (New) A method in a mobile node for selecting a network capable of packet data communication with the mobile node, the method comprising:

storing a preferred roaming list in storage element, the preferred roaming list listing a plurality of preferred networks together with associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the plurality of preferred networks;

identifying currently available networks;

determining associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the currently available networks;

comparing the currently available networks capable of packet data communication against the preferred roaming list;

if one of the currently available networks capable of packet data communication is matched with one of the plurality of preferred networks capable of packet data communication in the preferred roaming list, selecting the matched network; and

if no match is found, selecting one of the currently available networks capable of packet data communication not listed in the preferred roaming list.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein identifying currently available networks includes:

receiving a broadcasting signal from each of the currently available networks, the broadcasting signal having a network identifier identifying the currently available network.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein determining associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the currently available networks includes:

determining whether each of the currently available networks is within communication range to establish packet data communication with the mobile node.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the storage element includes a Subscriber Identity Module.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
attempting to establish packet data communication with the selected network; and
updating the preferred roaming list in response to the attempt.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising:
if the attempt to establish packet data communication with the selected network fails, selecting another network from the currently available networks capable of packet data communication.

35. (New) A mobile node capable of packet data communication configured to select a network capable of packet data communication with the mobile node, the mobile node comprising:

storage element configured to store a preferred roaming list in memory, the preferred roaming list listing a plurality of preferred networks together with associated packet data communication capabilities of each of the plurality of preferred networks;

a receiver configured to receive broadcasting signals from currently available networks, the broadcasting signals indicative of packet data communication capabilities of the currently available networks; and

a selector coupled to memory and the receiver, the selector configured to compare the currently available networks capable of packet data communication against the preferred roaming list and, if one of the currently available networks capable of packet data

communication is matched with one of the plurality of preferred networks capable of packet data communication in the preferred roaming list, to select the matched network,

wherein the selector is further configured to select one of the currently available networks capable of packet data communication not listed in the preferred roaming list if no matched network is found.

36. (New) The mobile node of claim 35, wherein the selector is further configured to determine whether each of the currently available networks is within communication range to establish packet data communication with the mobile node.

37. (New) The mobile node of claim 35, wherein the selector is further configured to identify each of the currently available networks based upon a network identifier included in the broadcasting signal from each of the currently available networks.

38. (New) The mobile node of claim 35, wherein the storage element includes a Subscriber Identity Module.

39. (New) The mobile node of claim 35, further comprising:
a transmitter coupled to the selector, the transmitter configured to attempt to establish packet data communication with the selected network,

wherein the storage element is further configured to update the preferred roaming list in response to the attempt.

40. (New) The mobile node of claim 35, wherein the selector is further configured to select another network from the currently available networks capable of packet data communication if the attempt to establish packet data communication with the selected network fails.